

dedication to this cause. Over several decades, he has taught hundreds of youth and adults in the Wilmington area valuable lessons and skills that have made meaningful and lasting impact on their lives, and our community will always remain grateful.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, and character that defined the life of William Murphy. May God continue to bless his wife, Audrie, his five children, Portia, Glenda, William, Torey, Russell, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 783 and rollcall No. 784 regarding the Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Conference Report, I am not recorded (because I was absent for my step daughter's wedding.) Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 783 and "aye" on rollcall No. 784.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DREW GOODING FOR WINNING THE AMERICANISM ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Drew Gooding won the Elks Grand Lodge essay writing contest, demonstrating a mastery of thought and word; and

Whereas, he has shown to take interest in upholding the values that make us a free nation; and

Whereas, Drew Gooding is honored for his patriotism and excellence in writing and; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Drew Gooding for his contributions to his community and country.

VOTES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 AND PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S VISIT TO NEW ORLEANS

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 15, 2009, I was unable to cast votes in Congress due to my attendance at President Barack Obama's visit in New Orleans to discuss Hurricane Katrina related recovery issues.

It is critical that President Obama stand firm by his commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast from the destruction caused by Hurricane

Katrina. There are several top priorities for which I personally requested the President's direct assistance including his explicit support for Category 5 hurricane protection, including strengthening our levees, improving our interior drainage protection, and rebuilding our eroding coastline. Category 5 protection is vital to the safety of Louisiana's families and to the full recovery of our region. The Corps of Engineers must make a full commitment to move forward with the safest and strongest plan to provide our communities with comprehensive flood and storm protection, and the President's support of the Louisiana Congressional delegation's efforts to achieve this goal is critical to our successful recovery. Coastal restoration is an essential component of our flood protection efforts, as Louisiana loses about 25 square miles of coastline each year. These wetlands provide a natural buffer to protect us from storm surge, and without them, the potential for loss of life and property damage increases significantly with each approaching storm. It is important that the Administration and Congress work together expeditiously to make significant investments in coastal restoration efforts.

While much has been done since Katrina to help restore the region, bureaucratic red tape remains a major hurdle to a successful recovery and continues to slow down our recovery and impair the abilities of our State and local governments to serve our citizens and respond to future disasters. If we have learned anything since Hurricane Katrina, it is that we cannot allow the same approach that failed us during Katrina to be followed again. FEMA must continue to work with our Congressional delegation and officials in Louisiana to expedite our recovery. During the town hall meeting, President Obama was asked to resolve the delays in our recovery, particularly with regard to Public Assistance projects and Community Disaster Loans, and to ensure that other states and communities do not have to face these challenges with future disasters.

There are too many lives and too much taxpayer money at stake to get it wrong again. I hope we will be able to continue discussing these efforts in the future and that this and future visits will help the President understand the very serious issues we are still facing.

IN HONOR OF MR. THOMAS PIGG

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend of the outdoors whose life was tragically cut short this summer.

Thomas Pigg, of Carlyle, Illinois, was an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake for four years, and then at the Kaskaskia River Project for another three. He was an instructor at the Illinois Federation of Outdoor Recreation's Youth Skills Camp and was dedicated to exploring and preserving the natural treasures of his native Clinton County, especially the Carlyle Lake recreation area. Tom believed that our natural resources should be enjoyed by all and he worked tirelessly to see that the young people of our community had the opportunity to visit

and benefit from having such a magnificent site as Carlyle Lake in their back yard.

Tragically, Tom's life was cut short by an automobile accident in July. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his father and step-mother, Daniel and Bonnie; his mother and step-father, Candyce and Russel; his brothers, Andy and Wes; his sister, Katie; his step-brother, Corey; and the many members of his family and community who mourn his loss.

Tom's memory will live on at his beloved Carlyle Lake, however. This month, the Corps of Engineers will honor Tom's service and his devotion by dedicating a section of the lake as the Thomas M. Pigg Wetland Restoration Area. It is a fitting honor for a man who was taken from us too soon and it is a site to honor Tom's wish for future generations to enjoy our nation's wonderful natural resources.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, I was unable to record my vote due to a family illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MACK MARTIN BOYNTON

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, throughout his twenty-six year military career, Mack Martin Boynton was a leader among his fellow service men. Serving in the diving, salvage, and rescue operation, Mack developed many ways to streamline the repair of naval vessels. These techniques were able to save the country precious resources in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Thanks to his intellect and ingenuity, Mack became one of the youngest Warrant Officers in the Navy.

Mack continued his career as a member of the Underwater Demolition Team (UDT), a then newly-formed arm of the United States Navy. His commitment to service and dedication inspired others and led him to become one of the best recruiters for the UDT program. Mack continued his committed service through the Korean War, where he received the Bronze Star Medal and a commendation from Vice Admiral Joy for heroic action against the enemy. During his career he was involved in the early studies and implementation of the first Navy SEALs team.

With his sterling service record and considerable honors, Mack serves as an example of the caliber of individuals who we have the privilege of calling our servicemen. I am honored that Mack and his fellow Fifties Frogs have selected Clarksville, Indiana, to hold their annual reunion. When these heroic Americans convene their meeting here in Southern Indiana, we should pause, even if only for a moment, and give thanks to them for their contribution toward our freedom.